

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE

SUBJECT: SOVIET REPRESENTATION ON CSCE COMMISSION
ACTIVITIES

1. DURING MARCH 23 CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ARMITAGE, SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER-COUNSELOR VASEV MADE
AN ORAL PRESENTATION ON CSCE COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, DRAWING
ON A NON-PAPER, ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF WHICH FOLLOWS.
BEGIN TEXT.

THE EMBASSY DEEMS IT NECESSARY TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE
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US DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO THE FACT THAT AMONG THE FOREIGN
EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON MATERIALS HOSTILE TO THE SOVIET
UNION, ORIGINATING FROM THE SO-CALLED "COMMISSION ON
SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE" OF THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS, ARE BEING CIRCULATED. THIS CONCERNS VARIOUS
KINDS OF STATEMENTS AND REPORTS, ESPECIALLY COMPILED AND
EDITED BY THE COMMISSION, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO

SLANDER AND DEFAME THE PUBLIC AND SOCIO-POLITICAL ORDER
EXISTING IN THE SOVIET UNION.

THE EMBASSY REGARDS THIS ACTIVITY OF THE ABOVE COMMISSION,
WHICH COUNTS AMONG ITS MEMBERS ALSO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AS AN
ATTEMPT OF ABSOLUTELY INTOLERABLE INTERFERENCE INTO THE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS IN TOTAL
CONTRADICTION WITH THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE FINAL
DOCUMENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN
EUROPE.

SUCH ACTIONS NOT ONLY CONFIRM ONCE MORE THE CORRECTNESS OF
AN OPINION EXPRESSED EARLIER BY THE EMBASSY TO THE DEPART-
MENT OF STATE, I.E., THAT THE COMMISSION IS PERFORMING
FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE ILLEGAL FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF INTER-
NATIONAL LAW, BUT ALSO PROVIDE REASONS TO REGARD ITS
ACTIVITY AS BEING HARMFUL TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. END TEXT.

2. ALTHOUGH VASEV AVOIDED SAYING WHAT SPECIFIC MATERIAL
THE NON-PAPER REFERRED TO, HE INDICATED IT WAS MATERIAL
WHICH THE COMMISSION HAD RECEIVED FROM THE USSR (NOTE:
MATERIAL IS EVIDENTLY ORLOV GROUP PAPERS WHICH COMMISSION
PUBLISHED AND CIRCULATED ON MARCH 9 TO SOVIET AND
EMBASSIES OF ALL OTHER CSCE STATES.) IN FURTHER REMARKS,
VASEV SAID THE COMMISSION COULD PUBLISH WHAT IT WISHED,
BUT CIRCULATING MATERIAL FROM WITHIN THE USSR IS ANOTHER
MATTER. VASEV HAD NEVER SEEN "SUCH A PACK OF SLANDER IN MY
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LIFE". TO EMPHASIZE THE POINT ON STATE DEPARTMENT INVOLVE-
MENT, VASEV EXHIBITED A COVERING LETTER TO THE MATERIAL,
WHICH HAD A COMMISSION LETTERHEAD INCLUDING THE NAME OF
THE FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMISS-
ION. VASEV CHARACTERIZED HIS DEMARCHE AS A "REPRESENTA-
TION", NOT A PROTEST.

3. ARMITAGE SAID HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE MATERIAL TO
WHICH VASEV REFERRED. HE NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS
CONCERNED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT.
ALTHOUGH THE FINAL ACT IS NOT LEGALLY BINDING, IT DOES
REPRESENT IMPORTANT COMMITMENTS FOR SIGNATORY STATES. MORE-
OVER, IT IS LINKED TO THE UN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AND UN COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. BOTH OF THESE HAVE
STANDING IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ARE EXPRESSIONS OF INTER-
NATIONAL CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. IN OUR VIEW, HUMAN
RIGHTS IS A LEGITIMATE MATTER FOR DISCUSSION WITHIN THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. ARMITAGE ADDED WE WOULD EXAMINE
MATERIAL THAT NON-PAPER ALLUDED TO.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, CSCE, (VASEV)
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